

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are presented for examination. Claims 13-17 have been allowed and Claim 11 has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-10, 12 and 18-27 stand rejected.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112 as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The examiner comments that it is unclear whether the pin thread runout diameter is the same as the outside diameter of a major length of the first tubular body. It is respectfully noted that with respect to the definition of applicants' invention by Claim 2, it is purposely intended that the pin thread runout diameter may be the same as or different from the diameter of a major length of the first tubular body. Applicants do not wish to limit the coverage of Claim 2 to a specific diameter for the runout of the pin thread. It is respectfully submitted that the fact that the runout diameter is (or is not) expressly identified as being the same as the outside diameter of a major length of the first tubular body does not make the claim indefinite. Applicants are not required to limit the pin thread runout diameter to any specific component or value. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 2 is in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 and such a determination is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to *Feisthamel*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Figure 1 of the *Feisthamel* reference, referred to by the examiner in rejecting applicants' Claim 1, does not disclose a pin thread root extending from a starting vanishing point as called for by applicants' Claim 1. Note column 2, line 107 of *Feisthamel*, in describing the threads in the Figure 1 embodiment, states: "said coengaging threads being preferably standard tapered pipe threads." It is respectfully noted that standard tapered pipe threads do not terminate at a vanishing point on the tubular body on which they are formed.

Applicants' Claim 1 calls for an external seal between the pin and box adjacent the pin thread starting point and proximate the free box end with the external seal comprising a pin seal surface formed externally of the pin. The embodiment of Figure 1 of *Feisthamel* has no external seal.